

combined with spacer clip 70' on one side and is cooperative with door D on the opposite side adjacent panel 153c. A gasket 155 has its flange mounted in slot 153e so that the tubular gasket is squeezed between door D and flange 153' when the door is closed, to serve as a door stop.

FIG. 32 shows a different sectional view of the assembly in FIG. 1, at the door latch, such that latch 171 extending from latch assembly 171' of door D extends into a latch-receiving slot 153/routed into panel 153c at the area of latch 171.

Attachment of connector blocks 102 requires no special craftsmanship since fasteners 104 simply screw into the slots 15 which extend the length of each post and thus are always found at the ends of each post.

As will be apparent from the illustrative assemblies shown, a wide variety of arrangements can be readily made using the novel assembly. Each post in the assembly, whether vertical or horizontal, is hidden from view so that the post need not be colored or painted in order to match the panels. The battens can be colored in complementary or matching colors. If it is decided to change the coloring of the panels, the panels and battens can be readily removed while leaving the basic supporting post construction in place, coloring the panels or replacing them as desired with differently colored battens, thereby creating a new environment arrangement. If it is desired to mount doors or windows, or exchange doors or windows or panels or other components, this can be readily accomplished simply by removing the appropriate fasteners for the battens, removing the battens and then the panels or other components, inserting the substitute panels or other elements in the arrangement desired, and replacing the battens and their fasteners. If individual vertical or horizontal posts need be removed, inserted or shifted, each is accommodated by removing and/or securing the fasteners. The structure readily accommodates thin panels, thick panels, and a wide variety of combinations. Panels can be inserted, removed and/or replaced by removing the battens on only one side. It is not necessary to remove battens from both sides.

It will be apparent to those having skill in this art that the number of variations achievable with the novel system is practically without limit. Furthermore, minor changes can be made in components of the preferred apparatus disclosed as exemplary of the invention, without departing from the concept hereof. Therefore, it is not intended that the invention be limited by the specific description of the illustrated embodiments, but only by the scope of the appended claims and the reasonably equivalent structures to those defined therein.

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A post and batten assembly for a wall panel system, comprising:

an elongated post having a plurality of sides, at least one of said sides having an elongated groove; an elongated batten having a central body positioned in said elongated groove and attached to said post, said batten having a pair of flanges extending opposite each other; said batten central body having an outer face, and defining an elongated, component-mounting cavity open at said outer face, and said cavity having a pair of elongated, inwardly facing inner shoulders astraddle said elongated cavity, said cavity and said inner shoulders being arranged and oriented to define a T-slot in said batten to receive and engage a T-bolt nut of a T-bolt fastener;

- T-bolt nuts in said cavity of said batten central body, and T-bolts threadably connected to said T-bolt nuts for mounting components on said batten.

2. The assembly in claim 1 including fasteners connecting said elongated batten to said post.

5 3. The assembly in claim 1 wherein said post has a pair of outer shoulders astraddle said groove, and said batten flanges engage said outer shoulders of said post.

10 4. The assembly in claim 1 wherein at least one of said flanges extends beyond said post.

15 5. The assembly in claim 3 wherein two opposite sides of said post each have said elongated groove and a pair of said outer shoulders astraddle each said groove, and including a pair of said elongated battens, each having a central body with an outer face, and a pair of flanges extending opposite each other at said outer face, and said flanges of said pair of battens extending beyond said post parallel to each other on at least one side of said post, to define a panel-receiving pocket therebetween.

20 6. The assembly in claim 5 wherein said flanges of said pair of battens extend beyond said post on two opposite sides of said post, parallel to each other, to define two panel-receiving pockets.

25 7. The assembly in claim 1 wherein said post has two sides opposite each other, adjacent to and orthogonal to said at least one side, at least one of said two opposite sides having a T-slot therein.

30 8. The assembly in claim 1 wherein said post has four sides, at least one of said sides having said elongated groove, and two of said sides having said T-slots.

35 9. The assembly in claim 7 wherein said post has four sides, two of said sides having said elongated grooves, and the other two of said four sides having said T-slots.

40 10. The assembly in claim 9 wherein said post is a first post, including a connector block attached to said post on at least one of said other two sides, and a second post oriented orthogonally to said first post and having an end attached to said connector block so as to be indirectly connected to said first post.

45 11. The assembly in claim 10 including fasteners attaching said end of said second post to said connector block.

50 12. The assembly in claim 10 wherein said connector block is within one of said receiving pockets between a pair of said flanges.

55 13. The assembly in claim 5 including a panel in said panel-receiving pocket.

60 14. The assembly in claim 13 wherein said panel engages both said flanges of said panel-receiving pocket.

65 15. The assembly in claim 13 wherein said panel is a thin panel which engages only one flange of said panel-receiving pocket, and said assembly includes a spacer clip attached to said post, and engaging said panel and the second flange of said pocket.

70 16. The assembly in claim 5 including a pair of thin panels in said panel-receiving pocket, spaced from and parallel to each other, each panel engaging a respective one of said flanges, and said assembly includes a spacer clip between said panels and engaging both said panels.

75 17. The assembly in claim 4 wherein said post also has a pair of oppositely extending flanges parallel to said batten flanges, said pairs of flanges defining two receiving pockets on opposite sides of said post.

80 18. The assembly in claim 1 wherein said post has a door-closer-arm-receiving track.

85 19. The assembly in claim 1 wherein said post has at least one laterally extending flange forming a door stop.

90 20. The post and batten assembly in claim 4 wherein said post has an integral flange parallel to said batten flange to create a pocket therebetween.

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21. The post and batten assembly in claim 1 including an enclosure cap attached over and covering at least part of said batten T-slot.

22. A post subassembly for a panel wall system, comprising:

a first elongated post having four sides and two ends; at least one of said sides having a groove for receiving and mounting a batten, and at least one of said sides having an elongated T-slot for receiving a T-bolt fastener;

a second elongated post having four sides and two ends, at least one of said second post sides having a groove to receive a batten and having a T-slot, said second post being positioned normal to said first post, and T-bolts attaching said connector block, and thus said second post, to said first post;

said posts also having additional slots which extend through said ends, said slots being configurated to receive threaded fasteners;

a first connector block on at least one of said second post ends, and threaded fasteners extending through said connector block and into said post slots;

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said connector block also having T-slots for attachment with T-bolts to a T-slot of a second post; and a batten mounted in said groove of said first post, said batten having a flange which extends over and thereby covers said connector block.

23. The post subassembly in claim 22 including a third post parallel to and spaced from said first post, and normal to said second post; said third post having at least one groove to receive a batten; a second connector block secured to the second end of said second post and having T-slots; T-bolts securing said second connector block to said third post, and thus said second post to said third post; and a batten in said groove of said third post, said third post batten having a flange which extends over and thereby covers said second connector block.

24. The post subassembly in claim 23 including two battens attached to each of said first, second and third posts and having flanges extending laterally beyond said respective first, second and third posts; and at least one panel having its edges retained adjacent said posts by and between said flanges.

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